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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Transport

Fourth session
Bangkok, 15-17 October 2014

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee on Transport (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
   (a) Opening statements;
   (b) Election of officers;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016).
3. Harnessing cross-sectoral infrastructure synergies.
4. Major issues in transport:
   (a) Development and operation of dry ports of international importance;
   (b) Transport facilitation and logistics development: the way to enhance operational connectivity in the region;
   (c) Promoting sustainable and inclusive transportation systems.
5. Consideration of future programme focus.
6. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-first session.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

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II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

Annotation

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be announced in due course.

Documentation

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/INF/3)

(b) Election of officers

Documentation

List of participants (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/INF/2)

Annotation

The Committee will elect a chair, vice-chair(s) and a rapporteur.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/L.1)

Annotation

The annotated provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary.

2. Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016)

Documentation

Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/1)

Activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/INF/4)

Annotation

In the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the second session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Bangkok from 12 to 16 March 2012, member States recognized the need for long-term commitment and continuity in addressing critical issues in the transport sector to support economic growth, improve living standards and increase the competitiveness of economies in the region. Towards this end, the Conference adopted the Regional Action Programme

for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) and the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport, which were subsequently endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-eighth session through resolution 68/4. The Ministerial Declaration requested the secretariat to convene a ministerial conference on transport in 2016 to assess and evaluate the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, phase II (2012-2016) and to consider a future programme of work.

The Committee will have before it a document which provides an update on the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, including highlights of completed and current activities. The present document should be read in conjunction with information note E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/INF/4 which contains a discussion of activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016).

The Committee may wish to comment on the status of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme. The Committee may also wish to endorse the convening of the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport in 2016, in lieu of the fifth session of the Committee on Transport, which otherwise would be scheduled for that year.

3. Harnessing cross-sectoral infrastructure synergies

Documentation

Harnessing cross-sectoral infrastructure synergies (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/2) and (E/ESCAP/CICT/(4)/2)

Annotation

Under the above agenda item, the Committee on Information and Communications Technology and the Committee on Transport will have a joint session to consider matters pertaining to information and communications technology (ICT) and transport in the context of harnessing cross-sectoral infrastructure synergies.

The Committees will have before them a secretariat document that contains a review of initiatives and possible solutions to synchronize the planning, construction and deployment of infrastructure in the ICT and transport sectors, as a means of saving costs, increasing efficiency and enhancing e-resilience. This encompasses a proposal to install Internet cables alongside road and railway networks using the existing right-of-way of transport corridors and providing opportunities for enhanced revenue generation. The document also contains a review of the conditions under which ICT policies can contribute to intelligent transport systems for sustainable development and opportunities to leverage ICT to improve efficiencies in trade and transport facilitation systems.

The Committees may wish to reflect on country experiences and propose policy actions and regional cooperation measures that may promote cross-sectoral infrastructure synergies in the context of ICT and transport for sustainable development. Deliberations under this agenda item will take the form of a panel discussion followed by an open discussion.

4. Major issues in transport

(a) Development and operation of dry ports of international importance

Documentation

Development and operation of dry ports of international importance (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/3)

Annotation

During the sixty-ninth session of the Commission, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports[1] was adopted and opened for signature in Bangkok on 7 and 8 November 2013. Under the agreement intermodal facilities which extend the reach of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks were recognized as important regional assets to promote more equitable economic growth.

As a link in the transportation chain, dry ports have proven to have a positive effect on the efficiency of the logistics chain. Well-managed dry ports help reduce transportation costs and total transit time. As intraregional trade is gaining in importance, it is envisaged that, together with the routes of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, the dry ports designated in annex I to the agreement will provide a broad canvass to assist countries in defining hinterland development strategies, help landlocked countries access markets at lower costs than is currently the case and advance the emergence of an efficient logistics industry across the region. The Committee will have before it a document which addresses issues pertaining to the establishment, function, financing and governance of dry ports.

The Committee may wish to share national experiences and policies implemented in the development and operation of dry ports, including challenges faced. It may also wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on the pursuit of related issues through impact-oriented activities.

(b) Transport facilitation and logistics development: the way to enhance operational connectivity in the region

Documentation

Transport facilitation and logistics development: the way to enhance operational connectivity in the region (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/4)

Annotation

Most member countries are physically connected overland by at least one mode of transport. Although infrastructure exists in most cases, they face overwhelming challenges in providing transport and logistics services across borders.

The Committee will have before it a document which provides an overview of the existing situation and challenges of operational transport connectivity in the region. It highlights the integrated approaches taken by the secretariat to assist member countries in addressing the challenges through transport facilitation and logistics development, including regional common frameworks, transport facilitation tools, comprehensive logistics policy,

[1] Commission resolution 69/7.

logistics training systems, logistics information systems and practical capacity-building through regional networks of experts and training programmes.

The Committee may wish to share national experiences in the field of transport facilitation and logistics and provide the secretariat with guidance on the implementation of initiatives to improve the environment for cross-border and transit transport and logistics in the region.

(c) Promoting sustainable and inclusive transportation systems

Documentation

Promoting sustainable and inclusive transportation systems (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/5)

Annotation

The development of sustainable and inclusive transport systems is a priority on the global and regional development agendas. Targets related to transport, such as universal access to rural transport, improving road safety, reducing emissions and providing access to integrated public mass transport systems, are being considered for inclusion in the development of sustainable development goals. Countries and cities in the region are facing challenges in providing sustainable and inclusive transport infrastructure and services to meet the mobility needs of their citizens and improve the efficiency of freight movement. Transport policies need to be developed and implemented to address these challenges.

The Committee will have before it a document which contains a review of various policies that could enhance the sustainability of transport systems. These policies include the following: (a) promoting standardization, such as guidelines and regional standards for transport networks, fuel quality, energy efficient vehicle technology and fuel economy; (b) integrating national and urban transport planning; (c) improving public and rural transport; (d) promoting the use of information and communications technology to improve transport efficiency; (e) harmonizing national and local transport policies; (f) strengthening the institutional capacities of national. local and city agencies and enhancing institutional coordination; (g) promoting non-motorized transport; and (h) enhancing the resilience of critical transport infrastructure.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on activities to address the issues and challenges of promoting sustainable and inclusive transport systems.

5. Consideration of future programme focus

Documentation

Draft programme of work for 2016-2017 (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/6)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it the draft programme of work for 2016-2017, which was prepared based on the Regional Action Programme, phase II (2012-2016) and the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration, which was adopted by

the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport at their second session held in November 2013. The Committee may wish to comment on the draft programme of work for 2016-2017 and provide guidance on future programme focus areas.

6. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-first session

Under this agenda item, member States may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to transport development for the consideration of the Commission at its seventy-first session.

7. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee

Documentation

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CTR(4)/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its fourth session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-first session, to be held in 2015.